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This section is one of 42 Excerpta Medica abstract journals which together cover the complete field of biomedical science. The abstracts in each issue are arranged according to subject and may be scanned for current awareness on general topics. To help with more specific questions, each issue contains a detailed Table of Contents, Author Index and Subject Index. These are cumulated in the last issue of each volume (10 or 12 issues) enabling detailed retrospective searches to be carried out on various specific subjects.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A detailed, decimal subject classification, especially designed for the section, is used to sequence the abstracts in each issue. The most important elements of this classification are printed on the inside front cover together with the page number on which the first abstract in that category appears. A cumulative Table of Contents containing the complete classification is produced for each volume. Please note that abstracts are published only once per section in the most relevant sub-category. No cross-references are provided between subcategories and possibly related abstracts published under another category.

ABSTRACT SECTION

The abstracts are grouped into chapters, paragraphs and if appropriate sub-paragraphs, each headed by a short descriptive phrase. Within each (sub)category, abstracts are numbered in sequence of their accession to the E.M. database. This number is used as a key in the Author and Subject Indexes. Each abstract is preceded by the bibliographic details of the original paper, consisting of the English title, the original language title, the names and initials of up to four authors, the address of the first author, the abbreviated title of the journal, year of publication and volume number/issue number (page numbers).

AUTHOR INDEX

The Author Index should be used to find papers by a particular author and is found at the back of each issue immediately following the Abstract section. Each entry consists of the author's name preceded by the abstract number under which the appropriate item may be found in the Abstract section. Where more than 4 authors exist, only the first three are named.

SUBJECT INDEX

The Subject Index should be used to find out what has been published on a particular specific subject. Each entry term, printed in bold, is followed first by the other entry terms assigned to that article, in alphabetical order, then by secondary terms and free text (if appropriate) describing the article in more detail and finally by the Abstract number. If the entry term is the key to more than one abstract, it is replaced by - for second and subsequent abstracts. The various indexing terms occurring in each entry form a 'mini-abstract' reflecting the contents of the original document and facilitating a decision as to the possible relevance of the full abstract.

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CONTENTS

1.	GENERAL ASPECTS	1,	63,	141,	207,	273,	341,	403,	467,	523,	589.
1.1.	History	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
1.2.	Components	1,	63,	141,	207,	273,	341,	403,	467,	-,	589.
1.3.	Standards	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	403,	-,	523,	589.
2.	BIOPHYSICS AND BIOENGINEERING	1,	64,	142,	208,	274,	341,	403,	467,	523,	589.
2.1.	Fundamental concepts	4,	68,	143,	209,	276,	343,	404,	469,	525,	592.
2.2.	Mechanical systems	6,	70,	144,	210,	279,	345,	407,	471,	526,	593.
2.3.	Heat and thermodynamics	9,	74,	147,	213,	283,	346,	410,	-,	530,	594.
2.4.	Bioacoustics	9,	75,	147,	214,	283,	347,	412,	476,	531,	595.
2.5.	Biooptics	12,	76,	150,	215,	285,	347,	414,	477,	532,	596.
2.6.	Gas physics	13,	76,	150,	216,	287,	348,	414,	477,	533,	-.
2.7.	Fluid flow systems	13,	78,	151,	217,	287,	349,	415,	478,	533,	597.
2.8.	Electrical systems	14,	80,	153,	219,	291,	351,	417,	478,	534,	598.
2.9.	Nuclear biophysics	17,	83,	156,	223,	298,	355,	420,	481,	540,	600.
3.	GENERAL INSTRUMENTATION	18,	83,	156,	225,	298,	356,	421,	483,	541,	601.
3.1.	Transducers	19,	84,	157,	227,	299,	-,	-,	-,	-,	602.
3.2.	Amplifiers	19,	85,	157,	227,	299,	356,	421,	484,	-,	602.
3.3.	Indicators	-,	-,	158,	227,	300,	-,	-,	-,	-,	603.
3.4.	Recorders	20,	-,	158,	-,	300,	-,	421,	-,	542,	603.
3.5.	Generators	20,	86,	158,	227,	-,	356,	421,	484,	542,	603.
3.6.	Telemetric devices	20,	86,	158,	228,	300,	357,	422,	484,	542,	603.
3.7.	Data loggers	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
3.8.	Cameras	21,	88,	162,	229,	301,	358,	422,	484,	543,	604.
4.	COMPUTERS	23,	89,	162,	230,	303,	358,	425,	485,	544,	606.
4.1.	Averagers	-,	-,	-,	-,	303,	-,	425,	-,	-,	-.
4.2.	Analog computers	-,	-,	162,	230,	303,	359,	425,	-,	-,	606.
4.3.	Digital computers	23,	89,	163,	230,	303,	359,	426,	486,	544,	607.
4.4.	Hybrid computers	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
5.	SPECIFIC MEASUREMENTS	24,	90,	163,	230,	304,	360,	427,	486,	545,	607.
5.1.	Temperature measurement	24,	90,	-,	-,	304,	360,	427,	-,	-,	607.
5.2.	Time measurement	-,	90,	-,	230,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
5.3.	Frequency measurement	-,	90,	164,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	608.
5.4.	Pressure measurement	24,	91,	164,	231,	-,	-,	428,	-,	-,	608.
5.5.	Flow measurement	25,	91,	-,	231,	305,	-,	428,	-,	545,	609.
5.6.	Flow resistance measurement	25,	91,	-,	232,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
5.7.	Volume measurement	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
5.8.	Density measurement	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	609.
5.9.	Acceleration measurement	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-.
5.10.	Displacement measurement	-,	91,	164,	-,	305,	360,	-,	-,	-,	609.
5.11.	Electrical phenomena	25,	91,	164,	232,	305,	360,	428,	486,	545,	610.
5.11.1.	Electrical activity measurement	26,	92,	165,	233,	306,	361,	429,	487,	546,	-.
5.11.2.	Impedance measurement	26,	92,	-,	233,	306,	361,	430,	487,	-,	610.
5.12.	Gas concentration measurement	27,	92,	165,	233,	306,	361,	430,	488,	546,	610.
5.13.	Hydrogen ion concentration measurement	27,	-,	166,	-,	-,	362,	-,	-,	546,	-.
5.14.	Radiation measurement	27,	-,	-,	234,	-,	-,	-,	488,	-,	612.
5.14.1.	Visible light	27,	93,	166,	234,	307,	362,	431,	488,	546,	612.
5.14.2.	Ultraviolet radiation	-,	95,	166,	236,	-,	-,	432,	489,	-,	613.
5.14.3.	Infrared radiation	29,	95,	-,	-,	307,	363,	432,	489,	547,	613.
5.14.4.	Radiowaves	29,	95,	167,	236,	308,	363,	432,	-,	547,	614.
5.14.5.	Roentgen radiation	-,	96,	167,	-,	-,	-,	-,	489,	547,	615.
5.14.6.	Alpha, beta and gamma radiation	30,	97,	167,	237,	308,	363,	433,	490,	547,	616.
5.14.7.	Neutrons	-,	98,	-,	238,	308,	364,	433,	490,	548,	617.
5.14.8.	Cosmic radiation	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	-,	617.

5.14.9.	Sound	31,	98,	168,	238,	308,	365,	433,	490,	549,	617.
6.	SPECIALIZED INSTRUMENTATION	32,	99,	169,	240,	309,	366,	434,	491,	550,	618.
6.1.	Metabolism	32,	100,	- ,	240,	310,	366,	- ,	491,	550,	618.
6.2.	Thermoregulation	33,	- ,	- ,	240,	310,	367,	434,	492,	551,	618.
6.3.	Digestive tract	34,	100,	169,	241,	310,	367,	434,	492,	551,	619.
6.4.	Liver and bile ducts	- ,	101,	170,	- ,	311,	- ,	- ,	- ,	551,	- .
6.5.	Blood	34,	101,	171,	241,	311,	367,	435,	492,	552,	619.
6.6.	Lymphatic system	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	311,	368,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- .
6.7.	Circulation	35,	103,	171,	241,	311,	368,	436,	492,	553,	619.
6.8.	Respiration	37,	106,	174,	247,	316,	373,	439,	496,	556,	623.
6.9.	Reproductive system	37,	108,	175,	- ,	- ,	- ,	440,	498,	558,	624.
6.10.	Urinary tract	38,	108,	175,	248,	317,	374,	440,	499,	559,	625.
6.11.	Nervous system	38,	109,	176,	249,	318,	376,	440,	499,	560,	625.
6.12.	Receptors	40,	111,	179,	251,	320,	377,	442,	501,	562,	626.
6.13.	Locomotor apparatus	43,	115,	183,	255,	321,	381,	444,	505,	566,	628.
6.14.	Skin	47,	116,	- ,	- ,	323,	381,	445,	505,	567,	629.
6.15.	Aerospace medicine	47,	117,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	445,	505,	567,	- .
6.16.	Work and sport	- ,	117,	185,	255,	323,	381,	446,	- ,	568,	629.
6.17.	Radiology	47,	117,	186,	256,	323,	382,	446,	507,	568,	630.
6.18.	Anesthesia	51,	122,	187,	258,	326,	385,	- ,	509,	572,	635.
6.19.	Monitoring	51,	122,	188,	258,	326,	385,	449,	509,	572,	- .
7.	SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS	52,	123,	189,	259,	- ,	386,	450,	510,	572,	- .
8.	NEW INSTRUMENTS	- ,	123,	- ,	259,	327,	- ,	- ,	- ,	573,	- .
9.	COMPUTER APPLICATIONS	52,	123,	189,	260,	327,	386,	450,	510,	573,	636.
9.1.	Hospital automation	52,	123,	190,	260,	327,	386,	451,	511,	573,	636.
9.1.1.	Laboratory techniques	53,	123,	190,	260,	327,	386,	451,	511,	574,	636.
9.1.2.	Administration	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	388,	- ,	- ,	575,	- .
9.1.3.	Pharmacy	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	512,	- ,	- .
9.2.	Medical history	53,	123,	191,	261,	- ,	389,	452,	512,	575,	637.
9.3.	Clinical diagnosis	54,	124,	192,	261,	328,	389,	- ,	- ,	576,	638.
9.4.	Electrodiagnosis	54,	125,	192,	261,	- ,	- ,	453,	513,	576,	638.
9.4.1.	Electrocardiography	55,	126,	192,	262,	328,	390,	453,	513,	576,	- .
9.4.2.	Electroencephalography	55,	126,	193,	262,	329,	392,	454,	513,	577,	638.
9.4.3.	Electromyography	- ,	- ,	193,	- ,	330,	392,	- ,	- ,	577,	638.
9.4.4.	Electroretinography	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- ,	- .
9.5.	Patient monitoring	56,	127,	193,	263,	- ,	392,	456,	513,	578,	- .
9.6.	Drug treatment	56,	128,	194,	263,	331,	392,	- ,	514,	- ,	- .
9.7.	Radiology	56,	128,	194,	263,	331,	393,	457,	514,	578,	639.
9.8.	Medical record documentation	59,	136,	202,	269,	335,	398,	462,	518,	583,	645.
9.9.	Literature documentation	- ,	- ,	203,	- ,	335,	399,	463,	520,	584,	645.
9.10.	Function tests and techniques	60,	137,	203,	270,	335,	399,	463,	520,	584,	645.
9.10.1.	Blood circulation	- ,	138,	204,	271,	336,	400,	463,	520,	585,	645.
9.10.2.	Respiratory system	60,	- ,	205,	271,	337,	400,	464,	- ,	585,	646.
9.10.3.	Nervous system	- ,	139,	205,	271,	338,	400,	464,	522,	586,	646.

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